



STATE OF INDIANA
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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest 14 at Notre Dame Tailgate

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (Oct. 21) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested 14 people on 17 charges during tailgating at Notre Dame yesterday.

Excise officers were working around the Notre Dame tailgating areas yesterday as part of the state Alcohol and Tobacco Commission's continuing efforts to reduce underage drinking in Indiana.

On Saturday, excise officers arrested 14 minors on 17 charges. Fourteen minors – including three 17 years of age – were arrested for illegal consumption or possession of alcohol. One person was charged with possession of false identification and one juvenile with possession of tobacco. One person was also arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Yesterday's enforcement efforts at Notre Dame are part of the Intensified College Enforcement, or ICE, initiative – itself part of a multi-year effort by the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to reduce underage drinking. The ICE initiative – launched this semester at Notre Dame – follows other programs by the ATC aimed at underage access to and use of alcoholic beverages.

After two years of gathering statistical data and establishing program protocols, in April 2009 the ATC embarked on a state-wide alcohol-compliance-check initiative, called the Survey for Alcohol Compliance or SAC. When the program began, nearly 40% of alcoholic-beverage outlets were willing to sell alcohol to minors. Now, only 5.5% of businesses are willing to sell alcohol to minors – a significant drop in the availability of alcohol to minors.

In January 2010, the state's mandatory server-training program was launched to ensure those selling alcoholic beverages had training in how to recognize false IDs and deal appropriately with underage or intoxicated customers. Now, all package-store clerks and alcohol servers at restaurants and bars have the necessary training to catch underage customers trying to buy alcohol.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.